

# THE 2006 BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

The ACLA Bulletin appears once a year in the  
Summer Issue of *Comparative Literature*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|      |                                                       |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| ii   | Letter from the ACLA President, Kathleen Komar        |
| iv   | Letter from the ADPCL President, Caroline Eckhardt    |
| vii  | Invitation to join the ACLA                           |
| viii | ACLA Sessions at MLA, Philadelphia, December 2006     |
| ix   | Call for Papers: ACLA Conference 2007, Puebla, Mexico |
| xi   | Recognition of Contributors to the ACLA Endowments    |
| xi   | Comparative Literature Prizes for 2006                |
| xiv  | 2006 René Wellek Prize Citation                       |
| xvi  | ACLA Financial Statement                              |

**LETTER FROM THE ACLA PRESIDENT,  
KATHLEEN L. KOMAR**

Dear Colleagues,

This past year has been a great one for the American Comparative Literature Association. Under the superb leadership of Sandra L. Bermann at Princeton University, the ACLA held its largest conference ever. To the credit of comparative literature as a discipline, it was also the largest conference Princeton has mounted in any field. Over 1300 participants from around the United States and from over two dozen other countries met at Princeton to share research and new ideas. Even more impressive than the size of this meeting, however, was the intellectual excitement it generated. The topic of the conference, "The Human and Its Other," sparked reconsiderations of our relationship to our world and to its future. In fact, the only lament I heard from conference participants was that they could not attend all of the special conference events taking place simultaneously. Ranging from plenary sessions by renowned authors such as Toni Morrison and a round table discussion of human rights to dance performances, screenings, concerts, plays, and art exhibits, the 2006 ACLA conference supplied a constant stream of intellectual stimulation and inspiration. On every level, this conference was a resounding success.

We look forward to our 2007 conference in Puebla, Mexico, April 19-22. The conference, titled, "Trans, Pan, Inter: Cultures in Contact," is being organized as a group effort by colleagues from a number of different universities. The faculty include the following: Co-Chairs: Lois Parkinson Zamora, Enrique Pérez Castillo, and Michael Schuessler; Program Chairs: Efraín Kristal and Kathleen Komar, with the invaluable assistance of ACLA Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Richmond-Garza. For more information on this conference, see <[www.acla.org](http://www.acla.org)>.

The Princeton conference was also the setting for our announcements of the ACLA prize winners for 2006. One of our discipline's most prestigious book awards, the Wellek Prize for a work in literary or cultural theory, was won by Professor Peggy Kamuf from the University of Southern California for her volume *Book of Addresses*. Kamuf uses the address in speech and writing to explore issues of fictionality, sexual difference, psychoanalysis, and literary theory. The Charles Bernheimer dissertation prize was won by Ilya Klinger from Yale University for his work entitled "Truth, Time and the Novel: Veridiction in Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Balzac." The Horst Frenz Prize, awarded to the best paper presented by a graduate student at the annual meeting of the ACLA, was for the first time awarded to a joint presentation. The prize went to Maya Barzilai and Katra Byram (University of California, Berkeley) for their paper "The Challenge of Lyric Address in War Poems by Yitzchak Laor and Ingeborg Bachmann." Finally, the A.

Owen Aldridge Essay Prize, jointly sponsored by the ACLA and *Comparative Literature Studies*, published at Pennsylvania State University, was awarded to Michael Allen (University of California, Berkeley) for his essay "Reading with One Eye, Speaking with One Tongue: On the Problem of Address in World Literature." We strongly encourage all of our members to nominate their students and colleagues for next year's prizes. Deadlines and requirements can be found at <[www.acla.org](http://www.acla.org)>.

In addition to these prizes given by the ACLA, two of our members won prizes from the prestigious American Council of Learned Societies. Srinivas Aravamudan and Edith Clowes were among the ACLS Fellows chosen this year (2005-06 competitions) in the ACLS Fellowship ("core program"), Ryskamp, Burkhardt, or Digital Innovation Fellowship programs. Congratulations to all our prize winners this year!

Another important ACLA forum occurred at the 2005 MLA conference in Washington, DC. The topic of "Human Rights as Comparative Discourse" was convened by former ACLA President Margaret Higonet. This important discussion was continued into our ACLA conference at Princeton. A second session on "Comparative Literature, World Literature, and the Undergraduate Curriculum" was convened by Caroline D. Eckhardt, President of the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature. This topic grew out of several sessions in the past few years examining the state of undergraduate study of comparative literature. This important investigation was carried out by Corinne Scheiner, who cooperated with several comparative literature colleagues to produce a report on the national state of undergraduate instruction in comparative literature. This report and its wonderfully detailed data were enthusiastically received by faculty members involved in or contemplating undergraduate programs. We are hoping this year to produce a study on graduate education along the same lines as that produced by Professor Scheiner. We congratulate her on this extensive and illuminating study, and we thank her for helping us all to understand the undergraduate challenges and opportunities in more depth.

This year also witnessed the publication of the new state of the discipline report ably edited by Haun Saussy and entitled *Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalization* (Johns Hopkins University Press, available in June, 2006). This volume will become a standard work for future comparatists wrestling with the problems of globalization and cultural interactions and collisions. It reminds us that comparative analysis continues to provide new strategies for appreciating cultural diversity and new insights into a world coalescing into new structures. Professor Saussy and his many contributors remind us of some of the crucial reasons for continuing to pursue comparative literature studies. Our congratulations and thanks to all those involved in this important undertaking.

Finally, I would like to encourage all of you involved in comparative literature departments and programs to continue to support the discipline and one another. I will be calling on some of you in the coming year to help us to understand better the practical condition of the discipline, particularly on the graduate level. I hope you will find the time in all of your busy schedules to help us by filling out a questionnaire we are currently designing. I believe that the ACLA must continue to function as an articulate voice for our discipline. We need to

underscore the ongoing importance of inter-cultural study and understanding in our current world of conflicting allegiances and security concerns that threaten basic human rights. We need to be aware of attacks on our freedom to pursue our research and to teach the information we uncover and the interpretations we develop. This is a particularly critical time for scholarly organizations to be willing to support their disciplines and academic inquiry in general. As President of the ACLA, I will work to continue to fulfill that obligation.

Cordially yours,  
Kathleen L. Komar, ACLA President

**LETTER FROM THE ADPCL PRESIDENT, CAROLINE D. ECKHARDT,  
AND SECRETARY-TREASURER, CORINNE SCHEINER**

Dear Colleagues,

Once again we are pleased to bring you up to date on the activities of the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature (ADPCL). For those of you who may not be familiar with the ADPCL, we are an administrators' group that brings together program chairs, department heads, curriculum directors, graduate and undergraduate officers, etc.—anyone who has responsibility for guiding Comparative Literature or World Literature in its various institutional settings. Please visit our website <<http://www.adpcl.org>> for information and membership forms; if your institution is not yet a member, we urge you to join.

The ADPCL's main project this year was the completion of our national study of undergraduate Comparative Literature curricula, conducted by a committee chaired by Corinne Scheiner (Colorado College). In the spring of 2005, we created and administered an online survey, which was sent to Comparative Literature department chairs and program directors. We gathered data on the following topics: 1) requirements for the major; 2) requirements for the minor; 3) the relationship between Comparative Literature and World Literature in Translation; 4) the use of translations; 5) staffing; 6) teaching opportunities for graduate students; and 7) departmental and program budgets. In addition, we collected data on the number of students graduating with a BA in Comparative Literature for the period of 1992-2004, as tabulated in the NCES (National Center for Education Statistics) IPEDS (Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System) Completions Report. In the summer and fall of 2005, we analyzed the data collected. We then presented and discussed the findings of our study at both the 2005 MLA

and the 2006 ACLA annual meetings. Our findings and their implications are detailed in the “2005 ADPCL Report on the Undergraduate Comparative Literature Curriculum,” which will appear in this year’s issue of the MLA’s journal *Profession*. Publication in this widely circulated journal should inform many colleagues in related disciplines, as well as in our own, about undergraduate programming in Comparative Literature. The report may also be a very useful document to point to when we’re engaged in planning processes within in our own institutions.

In the coming year, using the undergraduate report as a model, the ADPCL will launch a companion project, chaired by Kathy Komar (UCLA), to survey graduate curricula in Comparative Literature.

Among its ongoing initiatives, the ADPCL organizes conference sessions to address administrative and programmatic topics for comparatists. In the past academic year, as in previous years, we sponsored sessions at the MLA and ACLA conferences. Our well-attended December 2005 MLA Special Session on “Teaching World Literature” was chaired by Elaine Martin (University of Alabama), with speakers Alexander Dunlop (Auburn), Nina Berman (Ohio State), and John Burt Foster (George Mason). In March 2006, at the ACLA meeting at Princeton, there were three ADPCL sessions: a breakfast meeting for program administrators; a workshop on the job market, co-sponsored with Graduate Caucus representatives Sara Armengot (Penn State) and William Martin (Texas), with speakers Nicoletta Pireddu (Georgetown University) and Chris Braider (University of Colorado); and a Roundtable on the undergraduate curriculum report, with committee members Al Baum (Cal State Long Beach), David Damrosch (Columbia), Caroline Eckhardt (Penn State), and Kathy Komar (UCLA) presenting, and Corinne Scheiner (Colorado College), committee chair, presiding.

For the December 2006 MLA meeting, the ADPCL will sponsor a Special Session on “(Re)producing Ourselves? Preparing the Next Generation of Comparatists,” organized and chaired by Elizabeth Richmond-Garza (University of Texas at Austin), with speakers Jonathan Culler (Cornell University), Gail Finney (University of California, Davis), and Ross Shideler (UCLA).

In other activities,

- (1) The ADPCL again supplied an updated listing of Comparative Literature departments, programs, curricula, and other academic units, which will appear in the September 2006 Directory issue of MLA. Please check your institution’s entry and notify Caroline Eckhardt <e82@psu.edu> of any additions or corrections.
- (2) As several items in this letter suggest, the ADPCL works closely with both the MLA and the ACLA. We have recently moved towards strengthening our affiliations with both organizations. The presidents of the ACLA and the ADPCL, or their representatives, now serve reciprocally on the other organization’s governing board (the ACLA’s Advisory Board and the ADPCL’s executive committee). The ADPCL also continues to seek an official affiliation with the MLA. In Fall 2004, we submitted an application to the MLA for status as an Affiliated Association. In Spring 2005, the application was returned to us for further information; we revised it and resubmitted it in Fall 2006. As of this writing, we are awaiting the outcome.

The discipline of Comparative Literature has a crucial role to play as all humanities fields move towards greater internationalization and globalization. The ADPCL, as a venue where the pragmatic aspects of program-formation and the changing directions and constituencies of the discipline can be addressed, offers opportunities to work together as we solve administrative problems, propose new initiatives, and compile information on the different ways in which Comparative Literature exists institutionally (as mentioned above, our next major project, following upon the report on undergraduate curricula, will be a survey and report about graduate curricula). We invite you to propose projects and to indicate what you would like the ADPCL to emphasize in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline D. Eckhardt (Penn State)  
President, ADPCL  
*e82@psu.edu*

Corinne Scheiner  
Secretary-Treasurer, ADPCL  
*scheiner@ColoradoCollege.edu*

<<http://www.adpcl.org>>



## An Invitation to Join the ACLA

### Why join the ACLA?

- We keep you informed about the latest developments in the discipline and the profession through our journal *Comparative Literature*, the *ACLA Bulletin* (in the summer issue of *CL*), our website, and regular emails to the membership.
- Our annual meetings are collegial, intellectually stimulating, and rewarding. They combine intimate conversation within seminars with defining disciplinary presentations. In 2007 we will meet in Puebla, Mexico, and in 2008 we will meet at California State University at Long Beach. We also sponsor two panels and co-host a social event with the School of Criticism and Theory at the annual MLA meeting.
- Our website, [www.acla.org](http://www.acla.org), is the primary resource for the field in North America and internationally. It provides an up-to-date and dynamic virtual resource and meeting place for scholars and students in the field. We hope you will let us know at the Secretariat ([info@acla.org](mailto:info@acla.org)) how we may enrich it and make it even more useful.
- ACLA members receive a subscription to *Comparative Literature* and membership in the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), which meets triennially in cities around the world. The 18th Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association will meet in Rio de Janeiro 29 July-5 August 2007. Members may also join the Southern Comparative Literature Association (SCLA), which will meet at the University of Georgia in Athens 28-30 September 2007, and receive *The Comparatist* at a reduced rate. Members may subscribe at reduced rates to additional comparative literature journals: *Comparative Literature Studies*, *World Literature Today*, *Yearbook of Comparative & General Literature*, and *Symploké*.
- When you become a member you become a part of our database, which will assure that you receive timely email notification of important events, publications, and opportunities in the field, both in North America and elsewhere.
- When your department or program becomes an institutional member of the ACLA/ADPCL, you and your colleagues will help to define and support the discipline and will be able to nominate your students for the Bernheimer Award.
- The ACLA is defined by the commitment, intellectual energy, and scholarly distinction of its members. We need your presence, contribution, and support to continue to thrive and to become an ever more crucial voice in shaping our field and the humanities. We hope you will join us!

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- I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Regular/Faculty one-year membership  
(includes joint ICLA membership)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$30/\$40 Emeritus membership  
(ACLA only—includes joint ICLA membership)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25/\$35 Student, part-time, currently unemployed  
membership

*All memberships include a subscription to Comparative Literature.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Institutional/Departmental membership  
(includes joint ADPCL membership)

Please join or renew your membership online at: [www.acla.org](http://www.acla.org)

Or write to us at:

ACLA Secretariat, The University of Texas–Austin Program in Comparative Literature,  
1 University Station B5003, Austin, TX 78712-0196

Questions? Please contact us at [info@acla.org](mailto:info@acla.org) or 512-471-8080.

**MLA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**December 2006, Philadelphia**  
**ACLA ALLIED ORGANIZATION SESSIONS**

ACLA is sponsoring two panels at this year's MLA Convention in Philadelphia. A special session for the ADPCL was also accepted by the MLA program committee. If you will be attending the MLA in Philadelphia, we hope that you will join us for these three comparative sessions as well as for our cash bar, shared with the School for Criticism and Theory. The topics and speakers are listed below. Please consult the MLA program for time and venues for all four of these ACLA-sponsored events.

**Panel A. "History and Comparative Literature: The Past"**  
*Presider: Kathleen L. Komar (UCLA)*

1. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza (University of Texas at Austin), "Mine(s): Comparative Literature as Chronotope"
2. Caroline Eckhardt (Penn State), "Historiography in Comparative Literature"
3. David Marno (Stanford University), "Comparative Literature as Philosophy of History: A Model of A-disciplinarity"
4. Haun Saussy (Yale University), "Folklore"

**Panel B. "History and Comparative Literature: The Future"**  
*Presider: Kathleen L. Komar (UCLA)*

1. Daniel Fried (National Central University, Taiwan), "Influence after Narrative: Literary Annalism and the Search Function"
2. Eric Hayot (University of Arizona), "What We Don't Know"
3. Kathleen L. Komar (UCLA), "Cyberspace, Electronic Texts, and the Future of Comparative Literature"

**Special Session**  
**"(Re)producing Ourselves? Preparing the Next Generation of Comparatists"**  
*Presider: Elizabeth Richmond-Garza (University of Texas at Austin)*

1. Jonathan Culler (Cornell University), "The Role of Theory for Future Comparatists: A Brief Projection"
2. Gail Finney (University of California, Davis), "Reinventing the Wheel—with Comparative Literature at the Hub"
3. Ross Shideler (UCLA), "Homes for our Graduates: Placing Comparative Literature Ph.Ds. in Today's Job Market"

We look forward to seeing you at all three sessions.

**CALL FOR PAPERS: ACLA ANNUAL MEETING 2007**  
**“TRANS, PAN, INTER: CULTURES IN CONTACT”**  
**Puebla, Mexico, April 19-22**

**Submissions and Deadlines**

We encourage papers on all comparative topics, not just those dealing with Mexico or the Americas. Below we suggest subtopics, but, as usual, individuals may suggest seminar topics of their choosing.

Proposals may be submitted in either English or Spanish.

Seminar topics and individual paper proposals will be accepted beginning September 1, 2006, on the ACLA website.

Proposals for seminars should be submitted by October 1, 2006, and individual paper proposals by November 1, 2006.

**Suggested Paper Topics**

- Crossing Borders and Boundaries of All Kinds
- Mythic Subtexts, Modern Texts
- Commodities and Cultures
- Literary Translation: Textual and Contextual
- Across Art Forms and Disciplines: Theory and Practice
- Comparative Cuisines
- Travel Literature
- Transculturation, Mestizaje, Creolization
- Transatlantic and Transpacific Encounters
- Indigenous Literatures and Languages in Mexico and Beyond
- Challenges of Non-Western Cultures to Critical Theory
- Gendered Transactions: Literary and Cultural Constructions of Sex and Sexuality
- Comparative Approaches to Literatures of the Americas
- Colonialism and Classicism
- Caribbean Languages and Literatures
- Jewish Literature in the Americas
- Canada and Mexico: “So Far from God, So Close to the United States”
- Immigration and Exile in/to the Americas
- U.S. Latino Literatures
- Latin American Studies and Inter-American Studies
- Mechanisms of Literary and Cultural Production
- Borders: U.S.-Mexico, Mexico-Guatemala, Mexico-Belize
- Performance in Mexico
- Popular Culture and Literature
- Ecocritical Approaches in Comparative Context
- Violence and Testimonial Literature

For information, contact Lois Parkinson Zamora or Michael Schuesslers

## **Conference Organizers**

### **Co-Chairs:**

Lois Parkinson Zamora, Enrique Pérez Castillo, Michael Schuessler

### **Program Chairs:**

Efraín Kristal, Kathleen Komar

### **Organizing Committee:**

Margaret Higonnet, Miguel Cabañas, Wendy Faris, Dan Russek, Oscar Fernández

### **Advisory Committee:**

Djelal Kadir, Silvia Spitta, Adriana Méndez Rodenas, George Handley, David Damrosch, Christopher Winks, Nancy Worman, Haun Saussy, Tobin Siebers, Peter Connor, Dan Chamberlain, Deborah Cohn

## RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ACLA ENDOWMENTS

The ACLA wishes gratefully to acknowledge the generous contributions made this year to our endowments, the Charles Bernheimer Endowment for Outstanding Graduate Research in Comparative Literature, the Haskell M. Block Endowment for the Support of International Students, and the general ACLA endowments. These funds, which honor the year's outstanding dissertation, fund graduate student travel to the annual meeting of the ACLA, and support the association's mission, assure and enhance the future of the field of Comparative Literature through our graduate students and colleagues by recognizing their achievements and assisting them to participate fully in the scholarly life of the association.

Particularly generous benefactors of the ACLA this year included: Linda V. Block, Margaret Higonnet, Kathleen Komar, Françoise Lionnet, Larry H. and Janet P. Peer, Ross Shideler, and Laurie Block Spiegel. We also wish to thank the dozens of members whose contributions have made possible the enhancement and growth of our travel grant programs.

## COMPARATIVE LITERATURE PRIZES FOR 2006

### The René Wellek Prize

The René Wellek Prize, given in alternate years with the Harry Levin Prize, is this country's most prestigious book award in the discipline of comparative literature. The Wellek Prize recognizes an outstanding work in the field of literary and cultural theory. Editions, collections of essays, and reference works are not eligible for this prize. The 2006 Wellek Prize comprised books published in the triennium 2003-2005 and was presented at the ACLA Annual Meeting (Princeton University) in March 2006.

The winner of the 2006 René Wellek prize was Peggy Kamuf (University of Southern California) for her book *Book of Addresses* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005). The Prize Committee for 2005-2006 was: Beatrice Hanssen (chair, University of Georgia), Djelal Kadir (Pennsylvania State University), and Yopie Prins (University of Michigan).

### Announcing the 2007 Harry Levin Prize:

Those books eligible for the Levin Prize in 2007 emphasize literary history or criticism as opposed to theory; in the spirit of comparative literature, they are engaged with more than one national literature or with issues of literary study in general. The 2007 Levin Prize will comprise books published in the triennium

2004-2006, and the award will be presented at the ACLA Annual Meeting in Puebla, Mexico, in April 2007. Please consult the ACLA website for additional information about the competition at: <http://www.acla.org/levinandwellek.html>.

### **The A. Owen Aldridge Prize**

The A. Owen Aldridge prize is awarded to the best graduate student essay selected from a competition. *Comparative Literature Studies*, at the Pennsylvania State University Press, publishes this annual prize-paper. The winning article also carries a monetary prize. The purpose of this competition is to encourage and recognize excellence in scholarship among graduate students and to reward the highest achievement by publication. This project is sponsored by *Comparative Literature Studies* in cooperation with the ACLA and supported by the Department of Comparative Literature at Penn State.

The winner of the 2006 A. Owen Aldridge prize was Michael Allen (University of California, Berkeley) for his essay "Reading with One Eye, Speaking with One Tongue: On the Problem of Address in World Literature." The prize committee for 2005-06 was: Thomas Beebee (chair, Pennsylvania State University), Christopher P. Bush (Princeton University), Stephanie Moore Glaser (University of Copenhagen), and Eric Hayot (University of Arizona).

Graduate students are encouraged to submit a polished paper in English, approximately 15-20 pages long (double-spaced), following the MLA Style Manual, prepared for anonymous evaluation. The deadline for the 2007 Aldridge prize competition was July 1, 2006. Further information on the Aldridge prize can be found at: <http://www.acla.org/aldridge.html>.

### **The Charles Bernheimer Prize**

Each department or program in Comparative Literature in North America may nominate one dissertation completed during the current year (for the 2007 competition, a dissertation completed by September 1, 2006). The ACLA expects that the majority of dissertations nominated have been written by students enrolled in Comparative Literature, but a department or program may nominate a dissertation by a student enrolled in another program if it judges this the best dissertation in comparative literature of the year. The sponsoring department or program must be a current member of the ACLA.

The winner of the 2006 Bernheimer Prize was Ilya Kliger (Yale University) for his dissertation "Truth, Time, and the Novel: Veridiction in Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Balzac." Honorable Mention was awarded to Irene Perciali (University of California, Berkeley) for her dissertation "Personifying Capitalism: Economic Imagination, the Novel, and the Entrepreneur." The prize committee for 2005-06 was: Pericles Lewis (Yale University, chair), Ronald Bogue (University of Georgia), and Steven Yao (Hamilton College).

To nominate a dissertation for the Bernheimer Prize, we ask you to notify the ACLA secretariat at [info@acla.org](mailto:info@acla.org) of your nomination and to send copies of the

dissertation directly to the judges. For the 2007 Bernheimer Prize, copies must reach the judges by November 15, 2006. Further information on the Bernheimer prize can be found at: <http://www.acla.org/bernheimer.html>.

### **The Horst Frenz Prize**

The Horst Frenz Prize is awarded to an outstanding paper presented by a graduate student at the annual meeting of the ACLA; the prize is awarded at the following year's conference. The Horst Frenz Prize consists of a \$250 gift certificate for books, a \$250 travel grant to attend the following ACLA Conference to receive the award in person, and publication of the essay in the *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*.

The winners of the 2006 Horst Frenz Prize were Maya Barzilai and Katra Byram (University of California, Berkeley) for their paper "The Challenge of Lyric Address in War Poems by Yitzchak Laor and Ingeborg Bachmann." The jury for the ACLA 2005 conference at Pennsylvania State University was: Eugene Eoyang (Lingnan University, Hong Kong, chair), Virginia Jackson (New York University), and Janet Walker (Rutgers University).

Nominations of papers are encouraged from all Association members who participated in the annual meeting. The deadline for nominations was May 15, 2006. Nominations (including name, paper title, e-mail, etc.) should be sent to Eugene Eoyang at [eoyang@ln.edu.hk](mailto:eoyang@ln.edu.hk). Further information on the Frenz prize can be found at: <http://www.acla.org/frenz.html>.

## 2006 RENÉ WELLEK CITATION

**Peggy Kamuf, *Book of Addresses* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005)**

Peggy Kamuf's *Book of Addresses* is a book that enters into dialogue with the corpus and esprit of Derridean deconstruction, a book that shuns no Socratic or Derridean irony, to the point where, in its very opening pages, it is willing to question the "ontological status" of its own accomplishments as a book. Reflecting on the ambiguity of voice in the English word "address," Kamuf avows that the act of addressing simultaneously invokes the active and the passive voice—signaled in the phrase "essays are (being) addressed"—meaning that every mode of theoretical address necessarily puts into play the relation to the other. Aware of the burden thus placed on the originator of the address, Kamuf's brilliantly argued and lucidly written book addresses the ethical and theoretical implications of Derridean deconstruction. As she acknowledges, the "move to comprehend some piece of writing by Derrida, appropriates it in a way," an act of appropriation intrinsic to the act of addressing, insofar as "advocare" means "calling up the voice or speech of another." Enacting the ethical imperative of deconstruction as loving dialogue and critique, Kamuf, as a scholar of literature, especially engages the field of literary theory, one of the few fields, she reminds us, that "takes fiction seriously." Acknowledging that deconstruction always proceeds by means of a double gesture, that of reinscription and erasure, Kamuf compellingly rejects the reductive misconception that deconstruction is merely deconstructive in nature; instead, deconstruction's commitment to affirmation and love allows it to engage in a loving relation to the text without endangering its commitment to the Kantian labor of critique.

Moving through and also beyond dialogue with Derrida, Kamuf's *Book of Addresses* is written in a polylogic form that allows for continual self-interruption, reiteration, and interrogation, creating a space for multiple responses and even making room for an afterword written by Branka Arsic, "On Leaving No Address." Rather than developing a singular argument, Kamuf pluralizes the possibilities of argumentation and interpretation by addressing a series of questions that remain open to many readers: How is it possible to love a text? How can feminism affirm the inappropriability of its subject? How can we take fiction seriously? How can deconstruction be experienced? How do we read "deconstruction reading politics"? What are the rights of response and non-response in democracy? How do we redefine the haunts of scholarship and its future responsibilities?

Kamuf's *Book of Addresses* is an address book whose owner knows all those listed in her book have moved. Kamuf's call at each address is an attempt to construe these changes of habitation and the transformed habits of theory's itinerant inhabitants. Often "in the company of [their] thought," Kamuf negotiates

the byways of her subjects' displacements and their theory's translocations. Those called on by/through Kamuf's *Book of Addresses* span the last five decades of theoretical reflection in the twentieth century. They range from household names such as René Wellek to those who left no address and no name, but whose traces continue to alter the theoretical landscape nonetheless. An interlocutor as much as a de-coder of our theoretical legacy, Kamuf demonstrates that she is as consummate an interpreter of theory's intricacies as she has been a translator of some of theory's most Delphic voices. She communes with theory's haunting specters as much as with its palpable embodiments, gendered and trans-generic. Kamuf's *Book of Addresses* undresses the squeamish and books theory's congenital transgressors.

In the final analysis, the committee was above all impressed by Kamuf's elucidating and incisive dialogue with Derridean deconstruction and her ability to put deconstructive theory in the context of other significant theoretical thinkers (such as Wellek and Warren, Freud, Heidegger, Raymond Williams, and Cixous, to name but a few) and, above all, to reinvigorate the debate about what deconstruction can mean for literary theory.

Beatrice Hanssen, University of Georgia at Athens, Chair  
René Wellek Committee  
American Comparative Literature Association

Other Committee Members:  
Djelal Kadir, Pennsylvania State  
Yopie Prins, University of Michigan

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**January 1, 2005-December 31, 2005**

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ACCOUNT**

|                                             |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance Forward 01/01/05 \$                 | 65,658.94           |
| Expenditures/Transfers (see below)          | - \$ 60,114.17      |
| Income (Memberships)                        | \$ 31,163.75        |
| Income (Donations)                          | \$ 15,647.00        |
| Income (Conference proceeds from Ann Arbor) | \$ 20,514.00        |
| <b>Final Balance</b>                        | <b>\$ 71,203.71</b> |

**UT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES/TRANSFERS**

|                                                        |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Journal subscriptions                                  | - \$ 10,319.00        |
| ICLA/SCLA joint memberships (payment pending 12/31/05) | - \$ 4,115.00         |
| Prizes                                                 | - \$ 1,000.00         |
| Membership dues (NHA and ACLS)                         | - \$ 990.00           |
| Conference Expenses (MLA)                              | - \$ 881.51           |
| Travel and Miscellaneous Reimbursements                | - \$ 2,983.98         |
| Contribution to the ADPCL\$                            | 3,000.00              |
| Website Fees (including secure server certificate)     | - \$ 758.30           |
| Travel Grants (student and faculty)                    | - \$ 4,350.00         |
| Office expenses                                        | - \$ 80.81            |
| Bank/Credit fees                                       | - \$ 407.27           |
| 501©(3) Tax filing fees (IRS and Donna Knapp, CPA)     | - \$ 1,343.30         |
| Transfer to Highlander/Pershing Investment             | - \$ 34,000.00        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/TRANSFERS</b>                    | <b>- \$ 60,114.17</b> |

**Highlander/Pershing Investment**

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Value 01/01/05 | \$ 71,519.48 |
| Transfers      | \$ 34,000.00 |
| Dividends      | \$ 4,547.90  |
| Value 12/31/05 | \$110,067.38 |

**University of Texas Contribution**

|                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Balance Forward                               | \$ 0.00        |
| Expenses (staff salaries and office expenses) | - \$ 38,927.00 |
| UT Contribution                               | \$ 38,927.00   |
| Value 12/31/05                                | \$ 0.00        |

**TOTAL ASSETS**

|                                           |                     |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Highlander Pershing Investments           | \$110,067.38        |
| UT Account                                | \$ 71,203.71        |
| <b>COMBINED YEAREND BALANCES 12/31/05</b> | <b>\$181,271.09</b> |
| COMBINED INITIAL BALANCES 01/01/05        | \$137,178.42        |
| <b>NET CHANGE</b>                         | <b>\$ 44,092.67</b> |

Respectfully submitted by  
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Secretary-Treasurer